We claim:

1. A method for emulating a home telecommunications environment for a user associated with said home telecommunications environment, the user located at a

5   remote telecommunications device, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the user to initiate emulation of a home telecommunications environment;

receiving authentication information from the user indicating the user's association with the home telecommunications environment;

10   determining a home telecommunications network which is associated with the given home telecommunications environment; and

instructing a telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device to process signaling information associated with the user's use of the remote telecommunications device based on the determined home

15   telecommunications network, thereby emulating the home telecommunications environment for the user.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of instructing a telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device to process signaling

20   information associated with the user's use of the remote telecommunications device based on the determined home telecommunications network comprises instructing the telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device

to redirect said signaling information associated with the user's use of the remote telecommunications device to the determined home telecommunications network.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the telecommunications network associated with

5   the remote telecommunications device and the home telecommunications network are implemented with an IMS architecture.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of instructing a telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device to process signaling

10   information associated with the user's use of the remote telecommunications device based on the determined home telecommunications network comprises instructing the telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device to redirect said signaling information associated with the user's use of the remote telecommunications device to the determined home telecommunications network.

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5. The method of claim 4 wherein the telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device and the home telecommunications network are implemented with an IN architecture.

20   6. The method of claim 1 wherein the home telecommunications network comprises a Centrex-based network.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the home telecommunications network comprises a PBX-based telecommunications network.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the remote telecommunications device comprises a
5   wireline telephone.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device comprises a PBX network and wherein the remote telecommunications device comprises a PBX network based telephone.

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10. The method of claim 1 wherein the telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device comprises a wireless telephone network and wherein the remote telecommunications device comprises a wireless telephone.

15   11. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving a request from the user to initiate emulation of a home telecommunications environment comprises receiving a call from the user made to a predetermined registration telephone number.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of requesting said
20   authorization information from said user in response to receiving said call from the user.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the home telecommunications switch is comprised in a home telephone network and wherein the home telephone network and the telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device are operated by respective service providers which have entered into a wireline

5   roaming agreement.

14. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the user to discontinue emulating the telecommunications environment for the user; and

10   instructing the telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device to cease processing signaling information associated with the user's use of the remote telecommunications device based on the determined home telecommunications network.

15 **15.** The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of redirecting incoming calls directed to the user within said home telecommunications environment to the remote telecommunications device.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of blocking incoming calls

20   directed to the remote telecommunications device except for said incoming calls directed to the user within said home telecommunications environment.

17. An apparatus for providing an emulation of a home telecommunications environment for a user associated with said home telecommunications environment, the user located at a remote telecommunications device, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a request from the user to initiate emulation of a home

5   telecommunications environment;

means for receiving authentication information from the user indicating the user's association with the home telecommunications environment;

means for determining a home telecommunications network which is associated with the given home telecommunications environment; and

10   means for instructing a telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device to process signaling information associated with the user's use of the remote telecommunications device based on the determined home telecommunications switch, thereby emulating the home telecommunications environment for the user.

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18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device and the home telecommunications network are implemented with an IMS architecture, and wherein the means for instructing a telecommunications network associated with the remote

20   telecommunications device to process signaling information associated with the user's use of the remote telecommunications device based on the determined home telecommunications network comprises means for instructing the telecommunications

network associated with the remote telecommunications device to redirect said signaling information associated with the user's use of the remote telecommunications device to the determined home telecommunications network.

5   **19.** The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device and the home telecommunications network are implemented with an IN architecture, and wherein the means for instructing a telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device to process signaling information associated with the user's

10   use of the remote telecommunications device based on the determined home telecommunications network comprises means for instructing the telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device to redirect said signaling information associated with the user's use of the remote telecommunications device to the determined home telecommunications network.

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20. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the home telecommunications network comprises a Centrex-based network.

21. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the home telecommunications network

20   comprises a PBX-based telecommunications network.

22. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the remote telecommunications device comprises a wireline telephone.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device comprises a PBX network and wherein the remote telecommunications device comprises a PBX network based telephone.

24. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the telecommunications network associated with the remote telecommunications device comprises a wireless telephone network and wherein the remote telecommunications device comprises a wireless telephone.

25. The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising means for redirecting incoming calls directed to the user within said home telecommunications environment to the remote telecommunications device.

26. The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising means for blocking incoming calls directed to the remote telecommunications device except for said incoming calls directed to the user within said home telecommunications environment.